

In the specification:

Please replace the paragraph starting on page 8, line 1 through page 9, line 3 with the following:

PEO resins useful as the PEO component in the compositions of the present invention can be average molecular weights ranging from about 100,000 g/mol to about 8,000,000 g/mol as measured by the supplier using rheological measurements (which approximates weight average molecular weight). Desirably, the PEO resins should be both thermoplastic and water-soluble. Suggested PEO resins are commercially available from Union Carbide and include, but are not limited, Union Carbide PEO resins sold under the trade designations POLYOX® WSR N-10, POLYOX® WSR N-80, POLYOX® WSR N-750, POLYOX® UCARFLOC® Polymer 309, POLYOX® WSR N-205 and POLYOX® WSR N-12K. Other useful PEO resins within the above approximate molecular weight ranges are available from, for example, Union Carbide Corporation, and are sold under the trade designations WSR N-750, WSR N-3000, WSR-3333, WSR-205, WSR-N-12K, WSR-N-60K, WSR-301, WSR Coagulant, WSR-303. (See POLYOX®: Water Soluble Resins, Union Carbide Chemicals & Plastic Company, Inc., 1991 which is incorporated by reference herein in its entirety.) Both PEO powder and pellets of PEO can be used in this invention since the physical form of PEO does not affect its behavior in the melt state for grafting reactions. This invention has been demonstrated by the use of PEO in powder form as supplied by Union Carbide. However, the PEO resins to be modified may be obtained from other suppliers and in other forms, such as pellets. The PEO resins and modified compositions may optionally contain various additives, such as plasticizers, processing aids, rheology modifiers, antioxidants, UV light stabilizers, pigments, colorants, slip additives, antiblock agents, etc., which may be added before or after modification.